

D-8499

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

File No. SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE
S. E. REC. 571

S. I. Special Branch *W. S. B. D. 10/10/38*

REPORT

Date *May 2, 1938*

Subject George Solomon Miller, proprietor of Millers Company.

Made by D. S. Larby

Forwarded by *C. Crawford D. S.*

George Solomon (Grigory Solomonnievitch) Miller, Russian of Jewish extraction, was born in Perm on September 23, 1903. Though resident in Shanghai since 1924, Miller has never effected registration with the Russian Emigrants' Committee, he is however in possession of an unexpired passport issued by the Chinese National Government.

Accompanied by his parents, Miller left Perm in June 1919 and proceeded to Manchuria where, following a stay of approximately one year in Manchuli, he subsequently settled in Harbin. In 1924, Miller together with his father, two brothers and a sister arrived in Shanghai where the family have since resided.

Following his arrival in Shanghai, Miller secured employment as a general handy-man in a boarding house operated by a Russian Jew, G. Whitgob who is at present residing with his son, E. J. Whitgob - an employee in the Public Health Department - at 1371 Rue Lafayette. Later, Miller obtained a similar position in a boarding house owned by Mrs. I. Lubersky, a Russian Jewess, who is now residing in Kobe, Japan.

In February, 1925, Miller became a bar-tender in the Jewish Club where he remained until August, 1927 when he obtained a position in the Commercial Express and Storage Company, 53 Yuen Ming Yuen Road, the proprietor of which was at that period an American citizen, J. B. Katz (now deceased) who, it will be recalled, was one of the parties

*DC (G)
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for you*



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responsible for the supplying of arms and ammunition to the Allied Anti-Red Army commanded by General Wu Pei-fu (吴佩孚) prior to its defeat at the hands of the National Revolutionary Army under General Chiang Kai-shek (蒋介石) at Wuchang in 1927. Katz was further reported as being a receiver of stolen property though in this connection no charges were ever preferred against him by the Municipal Police.

In October, 1930, Miller severed his connection with the Commercial Express and Storage Company and became manager of the Land and Sea Transport Company, 21 Peking Road, which firm was financed in its entirety by an employee of the Shanghai Waterworks Company Ltd., one S.J. Moalem, an Iraqi Jew. Associated with Miller in this enterprise was also his brother, M.S. Miller. This business continued its operations until January, 1932, when Moalem took action against Miller in the 1st. Shanghai Special District Court in order to recover a sum in excess of \$3,000 which the latter owed the former. Eventually this matter was settled amicably, Miller agreeing to make a monthly payment to Moalem until the debt was liquidated.

Meanwhile, in February, 1932, Miller established his own transport company - Millers Company, 106 Peking Road - which has expanded to the extent that the firm now possesses twenty six motor trucks operating in the International Settlement and the French Concession. The company also regularly charters lighters, tugs, etc., from James Magill and Company,

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Ltd., a British concern. Associated with G.S. Miller in this business are his two brothers, M.S. and A.S. Miller; his father and uncle, respectively S.P. and W.P. Miller, and his brother-in-law, I.S. Gerstein, all of whom are said to have some financial interest in the firm.

It is now learned that Miller proposes to establish a similar transport company in Hongkong where he hopes permanently to reside with his wife, Mrs. Beila S. Miller, and two children. Should this proposal be fulfilled, the Shanghai branch of Millers Company will be under the management of his brother, Michael (Meyer) S. Miller. Later, if the Hongkong branch flourishes, it is anticipated that Miller will endeavour to arrange for several of his numerous relatives to settle in Hongkong in order to assist him in the operation of the business.

At^{the}/present time, the chief customers of Millers Company are the Yee Tsong Tobacco Company Ltd., the Universal Leaf Tobacco Company of China Inc., and the British Egg Packing and Cold Storage Company Ltd. Generally speaking, Millers Company enjoys a good reputation among the Shanghai business community who rate the firm as being of higher standing than the Commercial Express and Storage Company, Fed. Inc., the activities of which are of a nature similar to those of the company under review. It should be noted however that enquiries indicate that during the latter months of 1937 and in January and February 1938, the firm in question was responsible for the transporting of quantities of Japanese

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merchandise on which the legal duty imposed by the Chinese Maritime Customs had not been paid. In this connection it is significant that in October, 1937, three members of the Pacification Section of the Japanese Army, named respectively Tokumoto, Soeda and Omura became associated with the company and were presumably responsible for the firm's operations in territory under the control of the Japanese Military Authorities. Since March, 1938, however, the company has severed its connections with the aforementioned Japanese and there appears to be little or no likelihood of the association being renewed in the near future.

Regarding J.S. Miller himself, this individual is usually considered to be a keen, resourceful and energetic business man who, however, would not be above indulging in sharp practice as a means of enriching himself. Since 1932, Miller has been a member of the Shanghai Volunteer Corps and at present holds the rank of corporal in the Jewish Company, by the officers of which he is favourably recommended.

Nothing of a nature detrimental to the firm of Millers Company or to its proprietor, George Solomon Miller, is contained in either the records of the Municipal Police or of the French Police.

D. S. Harby

D. S.

D.C. (Special Branch)